

54 224

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EUR- Mr. Hickerson

NOE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

DATE 3/24/48 in recollection of your proposal re Czechoslovakia

UNA- Mr. Sandifer

REVIEWED BY

EC

March 3, 1948

UNA- Mr. McClintock

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE ☐  
TS AUTH. ☐

REASON(S)

Possible UN action to protect the integrity of Finland

COURSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFY ☐ RELEASABLE ☒

RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

SECRET

I believe the suggestion made by Ambassador Smith in his telegram from Moscow #394, March 1, that possibly the integrity of Finland could be protected by UN action, is an excellent one.

It seems to me that the fate of Finland is strategically of greater importance to the US even than that of Czechoslovakia, since Soviet encroachment to the shores of the Gulf of Bothnia will include taking over the Aaland Islands, which dominate the central Baltic, and present an imminent threat to Sweden. Furthermore, Russian domination of Finland would give the Soviet Union easy means of access toward Narvik and the Atlantic. Any action which can be taken to avert such a threat is action to maintain the security of the US.

We should not be unduly sanguine as to the effectiveness of UN action but should be prepared, if possible, to couple it with assurances of economic assistance to Finland, particularly that essential minimum of 300,000 metric tons of grain a year which was the Germans' principal bargaining tool with the Finns and is today used to great effect by the Kremlin.

You may wish to discuss this at Mr. Lovett's morning meeting tomorrow or possibly at Mr. Armour's meeting next week.

Copy to NOE-Mr. Hulley



UNA:McClintock:am